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RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 2930  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 7490  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1543  
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DEPARTMENT FOR PA, NEA/ARN, INR/IC/CD, INR/R/MR:STHIBEAULT AND  
JMCCARTER, VOA NEWS CA, NEA/PPD:CBOURGEOIS, AZAIBACK, AND  
AFERNANDEZ, IIP/G/NEA-SA MDAVIDSON  
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC  
CENTCOM FOR CCPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [SY](#)

SUBJECT: Asad/Mubarak, Syria/EU, Israel, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestinian  
Territories (1/30)

¶1. Summary: Syrian papers on Jan. 30 reported that President Asad had a telephone conversation with President Mubarak on Jan. 29, during which the leaders discussed the intra-Palestinian clashes and means to stop them.

On Syrian-EU relations, papers reported that VP Shara on Jan. 29 hailed efforts by Frank Hesske, Head of the European Union Commission in Damascus, in pushing cooperation between Syria and the European Union forward. VP Shara met Mr. Hesske on the occasion of ending his mission as an Ambassador in Damascus. Mr. Hesske expressed deep thanks to the Syrian government for its cooperation during his work in Syria.

Papers also reported that Lucien Peterlien, Chairman of the French-Arab Solidarity Association, stressed that Syria is a key country in any comprehensive solution in the Middle East. In a statement issued on Jan. 29, Mr. Peterlien called for halting foreign interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon, as this affects the situation there negatively. The statement emphasized the necessity of reviving the peace process in the Middle East to establish just and comprehensive peace in the region.

End of summary.

¶2. Selected Headlines:

"President Asad discusses mechanism for ending Palestinian in-fighting on phone with President Mubarak of Egypt"  
(Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 1/30)

"VP Shara says good-bye to Frank Hesske, Head of the European Commission Delegation to Syria, at the end of his mission in Damascus. Shara praises Hesske's effort to boost Syrian-EU cooperation" (Government-owned Tishreen, 1/30)

"Member of the Regional Leadership of the Baath Party Sataihi attends New Delhi Conference on Peace and Non-Violence: Ending occupation and violence is the basis for security and stability in the region" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 1/30)

"Lucien Peterlien, Chairman of French-Arab Solidarity Association:

Syria is key country in any comprehensive solution in the Middle East" (Government-owned Tishreen, 1/30)

"Iraqi National Security Council reiterates the importance of enhancing relations with Syria" (Government-owned Tishreen, 1/30)

"Remarkable Israeli deployment in South Lebanon. Hizbollah SecGen Nasrallah: The US Administration and its satellites are brewing major sedition" (Government-owned Tishreen, 1/30)

"Flying of Israeli poison balloons continues in Lebanon. Its danger reaches Jordan" (Government-owned Tishreen, 1/30)

"Eilat bombing claims the lives of three Israelis. Olmert threatens military action. Washington denounces the operation" (Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 1/30)

"The Israeli government intends to buy thousands of smart bombs from the US" (Government-owned Tishreen, 1/30)

"The Maliki government continues to fight gunmen. More than 40,000 Americans flee military service in Iraq" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 1/30)

### 13. Editorial Block Quotes:

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"The US Hand"

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Izz-al-Din al-Darwish, an editorialist in government-owned Tishreen wrote (1/30): "America's tools in the region are engaged in a hysterical campaign against everything nationalist, pan-Arab, and involving resistance against Israel...."

"In Iraq, the Bush administration wants to achieve victory through sectarian strife, civil war, and geographic division. Although it is denying this, it is deeply involved in it as revenge against Iraqis who refused to surrender to American occupation and control."

"In the Palestinian territories, this administration wants to stop the interaction between leaders and grassroots, besiege the resistance, and drive a wedge between the elected government and the people, in harmony with the Israeli occupation plans. The result has been this fighting among brothers."

"In Lebanon, the US Administration wants to annihilate the resistance by tampering with the Lebanese fabric and reviving sectarian and denominational strife. It wants to push traders in politics and blood to the forefront and to apply pressure on the Arab and international levels to impose them as rulers of Lebanon...."

"What is even more dangerous is that the Bush administration wants to expand the cycle of its mess in and around the region. It is making threats against this country or that. It is allocating funds for the aggression and preparing the climate for new wars...."

"For all these reasons, Arab and Islamic peoples find themselves forced to keep away from and to hate the United States. The hatred towards the Bush administration automatically turns into hatred toward the United States...."

"Americans themselves have similar feelings towards their administration, as shown by protest demonstrations and the results of public opinion polls...."

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"Unilateral Policy"

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Muhammad Khayr al-Jammali, an editorialist in government-owned Al-Thawrah, wrote (1/30): "There is growing criticism of President

Bush's unilateral decision-making with regard to sensitive issues like the war on Iraq....

"This policy will greatly endanger American interests, further isolate the United States, and push the world toward more tragedies and disasters....

"The Congress must discuss the dangers and repercussions of the unilateral policy seriously and put an end to it to save the lives of American soldiers in Iraq, maintain the right of the Iraqi people to a secure and stable life, end the neoconservatives' threats to many countries, and allow the United States to regain world confidence...."

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"Isn't Baghdad Enough?"  
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As'ad Abbud, a commentator in government-owned Al-Thawrah, wrote (1/30): "The United States, through its agents in the region, is working to divide the Arab and Muslim street and turn the Arab-Israeli conflict into an Arab-Iranian conflict.

"The US endeavors to divert Arab hostility toward Iran.... Israel and the United States, though militarily superior to Iran, are afraid to engage in a military confrontation with it....

"Instead of Iran being, as it really is, a strategic ally of the countries of the region, especially against the Zionist enemy, Americans and Israelis want it to be an enemy that the countries of the region can confront with Zionist support.... Arab peoples are resisting this inclination...."

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"Industry of Portraying Tragedies and Catastrophes as Tremendous Successes to the Decision-Makers' Minds"

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Buthaynah Sha'ban, Minister of Expatriate Affairs, wrote in government-owned Tishrin: (1/30): "There is a big difference between the real situation in areas of tension, such as in Iraq and the Middle East in general, and the picture that is conveyed to the decision-makers in Washington about the situations in these areas.... Decision-makers are not aware of, or have illusions about, the real sufferings and the true feelings in the region and the world....

"Is there anything more dangerous than insistence by the Vice President of the world's superpower that Iraq is recording 'huge successes' -- as reported by The Washington Post on 25 January 2007 -- while the entire world agrees that Iraq is experiencing 'a horrible disaster' that has destroyed the essence and purpose of life as known by all of humanity...?

"This gap between reality and illusion leads to the vicious racist onslaught and wars, occupations, and aggressions that we are seeing today...."

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"Between Hammer and Anvil"

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Umar Jaftali, a commentator in government-owned Tishrin, wrote (1/30): "It is regrettable that the warring Palestinian factions are ignoring the fact that their clashes serve Israel, which will have no mercy on the winning party, although Israel is making promises and offering temptations, such as a Palestinian state with temporary borders and the release of some Palestinian funds....

"Some sick people are adding fuel to the fire.... The problem is essentially fabricated and has exposed Israeli-American objectives. Israel will not recognize any Palestinian right. It just wants to

get rid of the largest number of Palestinians, whether through aggression, terror, and crimes, or through internecine Palestinian fighting. Thus, Palestinians are the only losers when they insist on falling into the Israeli trap...."

Corbin